

Norwich Bulletin

and Confidential

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Norwich, Wednesday, Jan. 5, 1910.

IS HE A SCAPEGOAT?

Charles W. Morse has started for Atlanta, Ga., to serve there the fifteen year sentence for financial crookedness imposed upon him in New York. He is still hopeful of release and declares that his sentence is the "most brutal ever imposed on a man in a civilized country." A victim was called for, he says, and he was made the scapegoat. There is no question that a lot of men more criminal than he have escaped without punishment of any kind, but that does not lessen the weight of his misdeeds.—Bridgeport Standard.

Mr. Morse is not in a position to pass a valid opinion upon the action of the courts in his case. His affirmation that other men even guiltier than he have escaped may be true, but it is also true that one financier has got what he richly merits. It is a pity that the law is not more effective; that in all high crimes against the people as many escape identification and conviction as men as Morse is convicted is unquestionably true; but the failure of the law in one respect should not be made the ground for its leniency in other authenticated cases. Convict Morse is a victim of his own greed and brutality, not of the brutality of others.

SIGNS OF EXTORTION.

When one reads the annual reports of the combinations there appears to be no question as to the cause of high prices in some directions, for it is plain that a greed amounting to criminal extortion is at the bottom of a great deal of the trouble. Here are a few items gleaned from our exchanges:

The Sheffield Farms company has a capitalization of \$500,000, more than \$100,000 of which is "good will, etc." It paid 15 per cent. dividends last year and so far this year it has made 22 per cent., besides bringing the surplus up to \$262,072, or nearly twice the capital stock.

The Borden Condensed Milk company, with a capital of \$2,000,000, three-fourths of which is represented by "good will and trademarks," has acquired a surplus of \$5,824,230 in ten years. It made a clear profit of \$1,076,772 on the sales of fluid milk and cream alone in Chicago and New York in the nine months of 1909, ending with September 30.

The Alexander Campbell Milk company made 25 per cent. profit in the six months ending June 1.

These companies are members of the so-called milk trust. Recently they raised the price of milk from eight cents a quart to nine, saying that they were losing money at the old figure.

Cutting "melons" for its lucky shareholders is quite a habit of the Wells-Fargo Express company. In November the company paid a stock dividend of 500 per cent., two additional shares for each \$100 in cash. Now it announces an extra dividend of 20 per cent. payable February 10, in addition to the regular 5 per cent. semi-annual dividend. All this is very nice for the express company's stockholders, but no wild enthusiasm over the company's prosperity will be manifested by the common people, who are held at the mercy of the express trust and compelled to pay exorbitant prices for service in order that such dividends may be realized.

This is what combinations are for; and this explains why prices and wages no longer bear the old relation to one another, warranting the complaint that the advance in prices is all out of proportion to the advance in wages made to the workers; and it is to prevent this that President Taft will invoke the aid of congress to make stronger the Sherman anti-trust law.

AN INCREASE OF BEGGARS.

The professional beggars are a permanent class in the old country and a promise to become so here. Those in a position to know say that begging is increasing in all parts of the country.

James Forbes, secretary of the National Association for the Prevention of Mendicancy, has compiled figures as to the number of beggars in New York, which seem to show that mendicancy has become an evil of such extent that measures must be taken to stamp it out, or, at least, check it. Mr. Forbes asserts there are more than 8,000 beggars in New York and that they gather no less than \$11,000,000 a year on the streets.

He estimates that each one the day before Christmas begged \$25 to \$30 on an average. And he points out that the amount thrown to the beggar in pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters is merely the first cost of mendicancy, and that to this must be added many dollars more, for to the beggar must be charged part of the cost of the police establishment, of the charitable and reformative institutions, of the hospital and of the petting field, this being where the average beggar winds up his career.

He does not doubt that any industrious beggar can collect more money in a year than the average working-man can earn; but they are improvident because the money comes easy and end life as poor as they began it. Beating one's way through life is becoming too common and it is the duty of the citizens to do as far as possible to check the habit.

The Pennsylvania road is about to put up seven hundred and twenty model tenements for its workmen at Long Island City. This is the largest enterprise of the kind ever undertaken by a railroad.

The taking of the census out of politics appears to be a bully way of getting the census into politics, for who knows the people better or gets closer to them than the politicians? Who is doing the business?

It is alleged now that the war department need not have denied that \$10,000 was put upon the head of Colonel Gordon, the new senator from Mississippi, since he is himself showing that it was never worth it.

The Boosting club of the Norwalks has dues of two cents a day. If all are doers why should there be dues?

A ROAD THAT SUITS.

The men who team over Connecticut's good roads are not the ones who complain, but those who speed over them.

While Commissioner MacDonald has been confined to the house by an attack of grip, he has had the pleasure of seeing come to his defense not only his newspaper friends but some of his newspaper opponents.

Now that a writer in the New Milford Journal has to say of the good roads the commissioner has built in Roxbury, this state:

"A stranger or non-resident of our state, reading the Connecticut papers, would come to the conclusion that our highway commissioner was a grafter and that the entire office force was a den of thieves."

In the first place, the writer holds no brief for Commissioner MacDonald. Does not attend the same church, differs, and differs hard, in politics, and has never believed and never expects to receive any favors from him of any kind or nature.

"With this explanation, I wish to tell you about one piece of the state highway, where there was no graft of any kind, and where the work was right inspected, from start to finish, and when it was completed and accepted the contractors were paid in full."

"It was work, and hard work, on the part of a few of the finest people (owing to our financial condition) to vote to appropriate for good roads."

"Today we are all state road people, as evidenced at our last town meeting, when we voted the limit for another stretch of state road."

"Our city friends, who have purchased property here and are living with us, are bragging to their friends about our road."

"The state has hauled 2,000 pounds for a load, station to village, now take 3,000 to 4,000 pounds."

"It has had the hardest kind of usage and as yet shows no defects. We expect it will need some patching after the first comes out in the spring, and it is going to get it (if needed)."

"We hope in time, in connection with Litchfield, Washington and Bridgewater, to have a through road, through this section, that we will all be proud of. Bridgewater so voted at their last town meeting."

"Notwithstanding disparaging remarks, and the general tone of our state press, the towns in this vicinity are confident, in leaving this road matter in the hands of Commissioner MacDonald, there will be no graft or scandal of any kind and that eventually we will have good roads."

It takes more than slander to ruin a public servant. It will take more than selfish interests and grafters to throw him down. Commissioner MacDonald knows his Connecticut and his friends and he has no reason to be worried by the criticisms of his enemies.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The New York custom house officials are having a hard time to find honest scales and plenty of them.

The snow has covered up the garbage piles, but when it goes they will be a greater menace to health than ever.

The men who loved Gaynor during the campaign and shouted for him are now thumping him as an ingrate. Such is success.

Happy thought for today: Citizens who are renewing their subscriptions do not forget to say nice words of The Bulletin.

The farms of this country are worth thirty billions, and there is no danger of their being gobbled up by one great trust right away.

The small boy cannot withhold his admiration from a man who can pick a snowball from his ear without getting mad about it.

The man who has a subconscious self has two to manage now where he before had one. Perhaps the resolutions do not suit him.

It took fifty million barrels of Portland cement to meet the demand last year, which is fifty times the amount required ten years ago.

Many a woman thinks that the man who has no use for a nightgown is always able to find the keyhole when necessary; is a model husband.

Vermont has enough mountain whites to set up a Christmas tree and a banquet for. Are these descendants of the "Green Mountain boys"?

The unfinished strikes that came over from 1909 must surprise the kid who is compelled to take charge of affairs, if the artists picture him correctly.

The man who draws a big salary for housing others often cannot boss himself well enough to command the respect of the humblest workman under his charge.

A western man who was negligent of his sidewalk received for a New Year's present from some unknown friend a snow shovel tagged: Good resolution No. 1.

The reporters have been guilty of saying more about Dr. Cook that was not so than they ever said about Dr. Osier, and they are still fabricating stories about him.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

John Donovan Explains.

Mr. Editor: In regard to the Division street ledge if you will turn to page 129 Journal Court of Common Council, 1905 and 1906, you will find the committee on finance submitted to the citizens of Norwich in addition to their estimate of the estimated expenditures, the sum of \$500 for blasting out a ledge on Division street; also the sum of \$500 for a new street from Cliff to North Cliff street, and the sum of \$6,387.50 to macadamize Laurel Hill avenue. All these appropriations were authorized by the city meeting. The street commissioner's report shows he had expended the sum of \$6,387.50 for blasting out the ledge on Division street—said report can be found on page 12 of the fourth annual report of the committee of public works for the year 1907, signed Joseph H. Henderson, street commissioner.

On page 5, same journal, you find report of street committee, signed Frank A. Robinson, Elias H. Chapman and Charles S. Twist, which report shows the amount appropriated for Laurel Hill macadam was grossly insufficient to lay macadam on Laurel Hill avenue, and the work was not done that year.

On page 6, same journal, same committee reported the sum of \$800 appropriated to cut out street from Cliff street through land of the Polish church, was grossly insufficient to do the work, and let the year pass without making a beginning.

Notwithstanding that the sum of

THE BULLETIN'S DAILY STORY

SWEARING OFF

"Getting ready for the annual stunt, I suppose," asked the druggist when the occasional customer pointed out his favorite cigar and dropped it on the showcase.

How is that? countered the spender, clapping off the end and reaching for the gas torch.

The druggist grinned amiably. "Oh, you know—the big swear-off thing," he explained, "right hand up and never again on the booze and the smokes and all that. All fixed, eh?"

The occasional customer regarded him rather coldly. "Do you think I look as though I needed something of that sort he demanded. 'Is my face red and bloated? Are my eyes puffy and have you noticed my hands trembling from the effects of debauches?'"

The druggist gasped hastily. "Sure, not—nothing like that," he declared, warmly, "but I didn't know but you were one of these regular resolutions fellows on Jan. 1. I didn't mean to insinuate anything—I should say not."

"Then why did you suggest such a thing?" pursued the customer, following up his advantage, politely. "There must have been some reason for it, you know. Maybe you've seen me coming home on the train of the elevated with my chin in my lap three or four nights a week. That might be it. Or possibly you have heard gossip around these corners about my wife complaining to the neighbors that I beat her up when I no longer my prolonged spree. Those things do get around about some people, you know."

"Oh, come off," protested the druggist, rather red-faced and uncomfortable. "You're striking me, all right, but a man doesn't have to be a regular drunk just because he makes up his mind to cut it out for a while. I think myself it's a good thing to do—once a year or so."

\$6,387.50 was insufficient in the opinion of the committee of public works to build a macadam road on Laurel Hill avenue, and the sum of \$300 was insufficient to build the road through the Polish church property, yet Mr. Robinson, who was a member of the finance committee, recommended that the sum of \$6,387.50 be appropriated to build the road through Polish church property; these appropriations were made by city meeting, and can be found on page 437, journal 1906 and 1907.

On page 5, Journal Court of Common Council, 1907-1908, you will find the report of the street commissioner, which shows that the cost of cutting a road through the Polish church property was \$500.44, or in other words it cost \$50.44 more than the appropriation, which was so grossly insufficient to build the road the year before. Said report was signed.

JOHN DONOVAN,
 Ex-Street Commissioner.

Norwich, Jan. 2, 1910.

An Effective and Pleasing Sermon.

Mr. Editor: I was so interested in your paper's report of Rev. Hugh Treanor's sermon on living "soberly, justly, and with pure hearts," that I am writing you to say that the sermon was exactly what the pastor of St. Patrick's said on the point of the duty of people to pay their just debts. As far as my church members the preacher spoke as follows:

While most Christians would not actually steal, it is no better to delay paying debts when one is able to pay, to run up bills when there is no present or future prospect of paying them, to take for the theater and other pleasures money which by right belongs to the butcher or grocer, who

The occasional customer looked at the chemist sternly.

"I don't blame you," he said. "A man in your business—running a drug store in a prohibition district—can't be too careful of his health, his reputation or his stock. You know your own business best, of course, but if you have any inclination to turn over a new leaf on New Year's day I would be the last in the world to dissuade you. But what I cannot grasp is why you turned on me the moment I came in and suggested that it is time for me to reform."

"Say, don't get huffy," interjected the druggist. "I told you I was only kidding. 'Can't you take a joke?'"

"You ideas of humor," went on the man with the cigar, "are so vague and unusual and scattered that you ought to make a big success writing musical comedies. You consider it a joke to charge a comparative stranger with being a common drunkard, a night brawler who neglects his family for barroom companions—a slave to tobacco who should in all decency pull up and endeavor to reform with the beginning of the new year. That's the idea I gather from your suggestion that I and her thr, and now you tell me that it's meant as a joke. I haven't come to the laugh yet," he added.

The embarrassed druggist was greatly relieved when the telephone bell called him away from the indignant customer and the latter continued to scatter ashes over the tessellated floor until his return.

"I don't suppose you really meant any offense," said the customer, when the druggist began nervously rearranging his cigar stock, "but you see how a crack of that kind sounds. At the same time, if he went on, walking slowly to the door, and now you tell me that it's meant as a joke. I haven't come to the laugh yet," he added.

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that the Reverend Father at St. Patrick's keeps, as your Bulletin calls him, "practical," and deals out plain talk to his audience. Maybe a little less Browning and cantatas, and more language straight from the shoulder in some of our other churches might stir up the livers and consciences of many on the bill collector's list to pay what they owe. As merchants, with the wholesalers prodding us, can hear with respect what St. Patrick's pastor has to say on this subject, for we know that he lives what he talks, and has the reputation for the past ten years of never letting a bill go unpaid over 24 hours when a settlement is possible.

Come on, brother storekeepers, grocers, butchers, furniture men, ice-men, druggists, stationers, shoemen, clothing dealers, yes, undertakers, let us get up a revival, to see if we can't convert some of the town's unregenerate Dead Beats!

"OFTEN STUNG."
 Norwich, Jan. 4, 1910.

Meriden.—Elbert Hubbard will lecture Jan. 12 under the auspices of the Humane society.

No Building in Norwich

will ever be too large for us to build. All we ask is an opportunity to bid for the job. Competition is keen and complete close figuring, but years of experience has taught us the way to figure close and do first-class work.

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